

Riots - 1925.

Arkansas.

## RIOTING CHARGES MAY FOLLOW RACE CLASHES

Arrests of Several Men Imminent, Report.

## FIGHTING WAS GENERAL

Oil Worker Gives "Death-Bed" Statement — Negroes Laboring Cheaper Than White Man at Bottom of Trouble, Report.

EL DORADO, Ark., May 7.—Charges of rioting against several men alleged to have been members of the army oil field workers who attacked the Standard camp Wednesday night are expected to develop from the investigation being conducted by the prosecuting attorney's office.

Information has been filed in that office, charging one man with conspiracy to incite to riot, and Assistant Attorney Gus Jones is working on statements made by G. T. Duncan and J. E. Bottoms, who are in hospitals here from wounds sustained in the fight. Arrests of several parties seem imminent.

Bottoms, who was the most seriously wounded, made what he thought to be his dying statement to the assistant prosecuting attorney this afternoon. The statement, recorded under oath, gives a complete history of the events leading up to the riot, and of the battle itself according to Bottoms' version. Excerpts from the affidavits in the hands of the prosecuting attorney follow:

"My name is J. E. Bottoms, and I am 25 years old. My parents live in Normangee, Texas, and my wife in Malvern, Ark.; my address, the Pure Oil Company's lease near Norphleet, where I have been employed as a pumper.

"The first I heard of this trouble was when a man tried to organize a crowd of the fellows around Norphleet Tuesday night to object to the negroes being employed.

"This man was locked up Wednesday for being drunk. No labor organization was in it that I know of.

Marched on Standard Camp.

"Wednesday night a crowd was formed in and around Norphleet and marched to the Standard camp. There was not quite 300 in the crowd, but there were many oil field workers. We got to the camp about 9:15, and suddenly the firing began from behind

an eastern tank. I don't know whether it was our crowd or not who began firing.

"I looked across the road for a negro, and a fellow ran out from behind and fired on me before I saw him. He shot me in the arm first, and I turned around and emptied the double-barreled shotgun I had with me toward the tank. I did not know the man, but suppose he works for the Standard. He was tall, slender, and had on a light gray raincoat. Might have been an overcoat. There was no conversation between us, he ran up, said: 'Who are you?' and started firing.

"I know a few of the faces in the crowd. It was just a bunch of us boys got together to go out there because it does not look right for the negroes to come in there and do a white man's work. The negroes worked for \$3 a day and white men charged \$4.50.

"I have six, or rather did have six bullets in me, one through each arm, and four through my body. I am getting weaker and weaker. I have given up hope; I don't think I'll last much longer."

G. T. Duncan, 19-year-old youth of Houston, Miss., also took an oath to a statement made from his bed in the El Dorado General Hospital, where he was taken after being seriously wounded in the first volley of shots fired during the fight. The affidavit he made, and which is also being used in the prosecuting attorney's investigation is similar to the one made by Bottoms.

One negro was killed in the fighting that followed the attack on the camp and several others were wounded. Most of the negroes fled for safety when the firing began, according to reports received here.

## RIOT IS REPORTED NEAR PINE BLUFF

Pine Bluff, Ark., May 22.—Several deputy sheriffs left here in an automobile early today for Ladd, Ark., where it was reported a gun battle between whites and negroes was being fought. Ladd is a small settlement located 10 miles south of Pine Bluff.

No details of the reported riot are available here. A. C. Breiner, night county jailer, said two men shortly after midnight notified him that a race riot was in progress in Ladd. There are no telephone connections with the settlement.

## RACE RIOT BREAKS OUT IN ARKANSAS OIL FIELD

Several Killed in Fierce Fighting, Report.

NEGROES FLEE WILDLY

200 Oil Field Workers March on El Dorado Camp of Blacks—General Battle Follows—Situation Reported Quiet Save Sniping.

ELDORADO, Ark., May 6.—Rioting broke out in the oil fields eight miles north of here tonight when a band of 200 oil field workers marched upon a camp of 88 negroes brought to the field by the Standard Oil Company for the construction of the 100-mile pipe line between the deep sand district and the Mississippi River. 5-7-25

Only fragmentary reports are available here. Several wounded have been brought to Eldorado and reports are that several have been killed. Approximately 100 shots were exchanged between county officers, negro guards and oil workers. Negroes in the camps rushed from their tents in all manners of garbs and have deserted the camp.

According to meager reports the oil men formed in two groups and went to the foreman of the construction gang employing the negroes. He is reported to have told the men that he would get negroes out of the field if they would go away and allow him to do it peacefully.

Shots are reported to have been fired from ambush and a general battle followed, in which the negroes were scattered as well as the workers. County officers came upon the scene with deputies and officers from Norphleet and after exchange of shots both factions were scattered.

County officers and standard officials could not be reached. A telephone report at 11 o'clock said that except for occasional sniping, all was quiet.

Hospitals at Smackover and Eldorado have received no wounded thus far, though ambulances at Eldorado have been called to the scene.

The rioting started about 10 o'clock tonight and was over in a few minutes.

## TAMPA FLA. Times MAY 8 - 1925 TEN WOUNDED IN ARKANSAS RACE RIOTING

Importation of Negro Labor Started Trouble.

El Dorado, Ark., May 8.—The number of wounded in Wednesday night's riot at Cross Roads, in the Norphleet oil district, yesterday was increased to ten when county officers, endeavoring to round up negroes who fled from a pipe line construction camp found two who had been wounded. The death list remained at one, but two white men are in local hospitals seriously injured.

Cross Roads, a new boom oil town, which has sprung up since the recent new oil strike in the Norphleet section, was quiet yesterday but county officers remained at the scene. Several arrests are expected, officers said.

The trouble was said to have grown out of alleged importation of negro laborers into the district by the Standard Oil company, which is building a pipe line to the Mississippi river. Reports were spread that the company was paying the negroes \$3 a day instead of the \$4.50 a day formerly paid, according to J. E. Bottoms, of Normangee, Okla., and last night 200 white oil workers met by agreement to run the negroes out of town. Bottoms is in a local hospital with four bullets through his body and both arms broken.

Bottoms said he had warned a group of negroes to leave the camp and was proceeding to another group when some one fired a shot. The shooting then became general.

## RACE RIOT STOPPED BY QUICK ACTION

Trouble Starts When Negro Is Barred From Circus

PINE BLUFF, Ark., May 22.—Ladd, a farming community twelve miles south of here, was the scene late last night of a threatened race riot, but quick action on the part of Jefferson County officers prevented bloodshed.

Authentic reports received here say fighting between Negro and white men began when a Negro was refused admittance to a small county circus. Men on both sides were armed. Deputy Sheriffs arrived from Pine Bluff and dispersed the mob before any shooting occurred.



Riots - 1925

# ELAINE MEN GIVE THANKS FOR FREEDOM

## Crowd Listens To Real Old Time Praise And Thanks Giving Meeting Held In Little Rock

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 4.—As an attribute of thanks for their freedom the last six men who recently received furloughs from Elaine through former Gov. Thomas McRae, attended the monthly meeting of the N. A. A. C. P. here and told of their experiences and made some touching confessions. The men were Ed Hicks, Rev. J. E. Knox, Ed Coleman, Frank Moore, Ed Hall and Paul Hale.

Rev. Knox was the first to speak. He told how he helped to make the twelve coffins that were to contain the bodies of himself and eleven companions after their electrocution. He admitted that he was given the opportunity of walking around within the walls and had the chance to run, but that he would not attempt to escape because he was "trusting in the Lord." Tom Slaughter, the famous desperado who got absolute control of the "walls" for several hours in making his sensational escape from the death cell several years ago offered to free the Elaine men from the death cell, but they chose to remain behind the "walls." Slaughter was killed, yet they remain to tell the story.

Frank Moore spoke next. He said, "I was sitting in my cell between my mother and my wife the Wednesday before the Friday of my scheduled electrocution in 1921. I told my mother if I go I will meet you in heaven. My wife said, 'What's Jesus for?' I took hope and I am able to stand before you today." Frank Hall, Ed Hicks and Ed Coleman, who is 86 years old, also spoke. Mr. Coleman said that he told the God that He was the God of Elisha, Moses, Daniel and the prophets of old, now be my God. F. W. Hicks sang the hymn "Take It All to Jesus and Leave It There." After the hymn Ed Coleman happily sang an old plantation melody.

All the men seemed to be supremely happy and had nothing but praises for the good citizens, both white and black, who fought for their freedom.

They said that they would serve the Lord all the remainder of their lives and do all they can to prove themselves worthy citizens. They especially thanked the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for its untiring efforts in their behalf.

Mrs. Frank Moore, the wife of Frank Moore, who worked so faithfully for the liberation of her husband and the other Elaine men, was introduced and spoke. She specially praised Judge Scipio Jones, who led the fight for the freedom of the men. She told how when she came over to Little Rock to get a lawyer for the Elaine men and went to Judge Jones, he did not ask about any money, but took the cases.

Mrs. Moore lived four years with her husband in the death cell and one year with him on the Cummins farm, being given special permission by the state to do so. She held religious services for the inmates while living in the penal institutions. She related how sometimes she was hungry and almost without clothes while in Little Rock, but that she scarcely had to beg because the good women of Little Rock would not let her.

Elaine

Riots-1925.

Our old newspaper colleague, Editor Ryan, of Ryan's weekly, Tacoma, Washington, was kind enough to refresh our recollection of the Atlanta, Ga., riots and flowing blood of Atlanta streets when hundreds of innocent Negroes were wantonly slain. Editor Ryan says: "An investigation was started by the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and the best white people of the South rushed to Atlanta. The church took an equally prominent part. John Temple Graves, teeming with hats, was asked to leave Atlanta. Negroes were asked by the Chamber of Commerce to tell their side of the story and a tale unfolded that put the Belgian Congo articles to shame."

Exit John Temple Graves, nationally mourned hero of the white press and wielder of a pen of blood and conquest bestirring racial hatred and condemning crime. Such literary exploits of Mr. Graves performed were sadly overlooked by his prolonged fomentation of trouble between the races in Atlanta. Thus washed away, while their "noble" deeds are made the play toys typesetters and linotype experts of that sector of the great press which still advocates arson and rioting.

We delight in paying homage to all great men, both past and present, and of whatever hue their complexion might be; but Editor Ryan is right in his portrayal of the departed John Temple Graves, whose soul, we pray, is resting in peace, but whose contributions to one hundred per cent Americanism were nullified by his conduct towards the dark tenth part of America's population.



Riots-1925.

Houston.

# EXTRA Last of Elaine Rioters Freed by Governor

Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 16.—(Special to Chicago Defender.)—The last official act of Governor Thomas McRae of this state before he surrendered his office to his successor Tuesday, was to sign pardons freeing six men held in connection with the Elaine riot. They were freed by the governor, Frank Moore, Ed Coleman, Ed Hicks, Frank Hicks, J. E. Knox and Paul Hall.

The petition, signed by 800 Arkansas citizens, was presented to Governor McRae by Judge Scipio Jones, who pushed consistently for the freedom of these men since their incarceration four years ago. At the time of the trouble 87 men were arrested and given varying sentences; six were sentenced to be hanged. Judge Jones at once interested himself in the cases and succeeded in getting all of the sentences revoked. All of the 87 prisoners have been freed. The last to receive executive clemency before the final pardon Tuesday were seven who were released from custody during the Christmas holidays.

## 27 NEGRO SOLDIERS OF 24TH INFANTRY STILL CAGED AT LEAVENWORTH

NEW YORK, June 10.—(F.P.)—Another member of the 24th infantry known as the Houston Martyr, who was freed as a result of the campaign made by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. There are still 27 of the men in Leavenworth, of whom will be eligible for parole in August.

## Another Houston Martyr Released

NEW YORK, June 18.—The 29th member of the 24th Infantry to be released since the N. A. A. C. P., and co-operating bodies presented their petition to President Coolidge, left the United States Disciplinary

Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kas., on June 6, according to a letter written by Major Edgar King, acting parole officer, to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The latest man to be released is Ernest E. Adams, who will go on Home Parole, under the supervision of William B. Hamilton, of Elizabeth, N. J.

## SENATE MEASURE GIVES HOUSTON TEXAS \$45,000

AFRO Bureau—

Washington, D. C.—A bill providing compensation for loss of life, personal injuries and damages to property inflicted by members of the 24th Infantry during the Houston riot on the night of August 23, 1917, at Houston, Texas, was passed by the Senate last Wednesday.

The bill provides for the relief of about 21 claimants in various amounts, the total amount being something like \$45,000. The claims range from \$250 to \$5,000.

The claims in the bill were approved by the Secretary of War. The House Committee on Claims came to a favorable conclusion on the measure and the House of Representatives passed the bill.

During the debate on the bill in the Senate, it was brought out that no such bill was passed when soldiers shot up Brownsville, Texas. Senator Smoot, Republican, of Utah, contended that if the bill were passed, "it will mean that wherever there is a raid or a drunken orgy on the part of United States soldiers, the Government of the United States will have to pay for it."

In the hearings on the bill, the Secretary of War, Weeks, made the following statement:

"The War Department deplors those tragic occurrences at Houston, truly stated by the Judge Advocate General to be without parallel in the history of our Army, and regrets that so many innocent persons should have suffered therefrom. If the Congress, in its discretion, desires to extend relief to those who were injured and to the families of those who were killed, the War Department is not apprised of any facts which would make such relief improper or objectionable."

Senator King, Democrat, of Utah, stated that he regarded the passage of such legislation as a dangerous precedent. He opposed the measure.

The bill was sponsored by Sen-

ators Sheppard and Mayfield, Democrats, of Texas.

It was passed by a viva voce vote.

## HOUSTON MARTYRS STILL IMPRISONED

New York.—In response to a letter from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, inquiring about the treatment of the former 24th Infantrymen, transferred from Leavenworth Penitentiary to the Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Col. G. O. Cress, the commanding officer, states that their records continue good.

Col. Cress states that none of the men have been released on parole since their transfer from Leavenworth Penitentiary. He continues:

"On the whole, the conduct of these men has been very satisfactory since their arrival here, and their records have been in keeping with the reports received from the Federal Penitentiary."

The N. A. A. C. P. is continuing its efforts for the release of the remaining prisoners and is leaving no stone unturned to procure fair treatment for them while their imprisonment endures.

## Four Others Released from Ft. Leavenworth

William J. Haugh, 33, one of the latest to receive his parole from Leavenworth prison, visited The

Chicago Defender recently to pay his respects to one organization that has fought valiantly for justice for those wrongfully held in Leavenworth since the Houston trouble of 1917. Haugh was released on June 15 and has secured employment in Chicago.

In speaking of the Houston trouble Haugh declared that much has been said that failed to do justice to the members of the 24th infantry involved, and very little of the true facts of the case has been made public. He also declared that the methods by which the men were tried and sentenced in San Antonio were far from that required by regular United States tribunals.

"But we have learned not to complain," he concluded. "It is the boys who are still in prison that I would like to see receive some measure of justice. They are no more guilty than any of the men and they certainly have had punishment enough. I, for one, shall certainly be glad when all of them are out."

There are 29 men still in Leavenworth. Those freed with Haugh are George Hobbs, George Parham and Henry Greene. Greene went to Min-

neapolis and the other two to New York city.

## TWENTY-FOUR INFANTRYMEN FREED

Leavenworth, Kans., June 18.—Ernest E. Adams, serving time here for participation in the Houston riot, a member of the 24th infantry, is the 29th prisoner in that group to be released since the N. A. A. C. P. and co-operating bodies presented their petition to President Coolidge. James Croker is the next on the list to be freed.

## NO CHRISTMAS PARDONS FOR HOUSTON RIOTERS

Reject Petitions of N. E. R. L. for General Release and Re-cites Parole of 20 Since Race Demands of Last Year.

BOSTON, Mass., Jan 5.—The colored race is disappointed that Christmas pardons were refused to the remaining Houston prisoners and that, according to the answer sent by the War Department to the petition of the N. E. R. L., which organization made the first plea to President Coolidge, October 6, 1923, and again argued and presented many resolutions and also petitions signed by the United States Congressmen and Senators when the N. A. A. C. P. presented its mammoth petition, the policy of gradual parole then given a real start is to be continued. 1-9-25  
The War Department's official statement to the league, which urges the race to continue writing to the president till all the martyrs are free, is as follows.

### WAR DEPARTMENT

Washington

In Reply AG 253.1 (12-13-24)  
Refer to Prisoner

BJW-163

Dec. 22, 1924.

Mr. William M. Trotter,  
Cor. Sec'y, Nat'l Equal  
Rights League,  
103 Court Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 13th inst., addressed to the President, in behalf of the Houston soldier prisoners, has been referred to the War Department for acknowledgement and consideration. In response, I am directed by the Secretary of War to advise you as follows:

### The War Department's Statement

The cases of the so-called Houston rioters have been considered by the War Department many times since

their confinement in the penitentiary, and were considered recently by a board of officers appointed by the Secretary of War for the purpose of considering the cases of military prisoners and making recommendations relative to the question of clemency. When this board met at the penitentiary 1 of the 55 prisoners in confinement was in Saint Elizabeths Hospital, Washington, D. C. Of the 54 of these men who were in confinement in the penitentiary when the board of officers visited the institution, 30 were serving life sentences. As the result of the recommendations of the board of officers, made after a most careful and exhaustive investigation and consideration of each case on its individual merits, ten of the thirty men under life sentences have received reductions in their sentences that will make them eligible for release on home parole during the calendar year 1925; and the remaining twenty have received reductions from life to thirty years, which will make sixteen of them eligible for home parole in 1927, and four of them eligible for home parole in 1928.

In passing upon these cases great weight was laid upon the evidence presented at the trial and the conduct of confinement of the prisoners concerned; and the investigation showed that the men whose sentences were reduced to thirty years were the more deeply involved in the affair and had the poorer records of conduct in confinement. Of the other twenty-four prisoners involved in the Houston riot, serving sentences of less than life at the time of the investigation of the board, eighteen were eligible for parole during the calendar year 1924, and six will be eligible for home parole in 1925. Some of these have since been released on home parole, and others will doubtless will be released on home parole soon.

### Why Not Granted

As this recent investigation has resulted in reduction in sentences in every case of the so-called Houston



rioters, with the exception of who were eligible for parole not later than August, 1924, and as the latest date (under the modified sentences) on which any prisoner will become eligible for home parole in August, 1928, it is considered that the War Department has been most liberal in its treatment of the prisoners.

Under a rule of the War Department governing the subject, the case of every military prisoner is considered for clemency at least each year; and neither the recent investigation by the board of officers, nor any action taken upon its recommendation will preclude the consideration annually or the cases of each one of the prisoners involved.

In view of the foregoing, your appeal for the release of the prisoners at this time is not favorably considered.

ROBERT C. DAVIS,  
Major General,  
The Adjutant General.

## 20 Remaining Transferred From Leavenworth to Military Prison. Total of Those Released Since Presentation of 125,000 Name Petition to Coolidge is 26

NEW YORK, Jan. 31—Six more Houston Martyrs, former members of the 24th Infantry, imprisoned for their alleged share in the Houston riot of 1917, were released on January 8 and January 15 of this year, it was announced today by the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, reducing the total number of these men still in prison to 29. Since the N. A. A. C. P. presented the petition signed with 125,000 names to President Coolidge in February of 1924, twenty-six men have been released. The men released on January 8, are, Fred Avery and William Mance. A week later, on January 15, the following were released: Henry Green, George Hobbs, William J. Hough and George J. Parham. Mr. Parham visited the National Office of the N. A. A. C. P. in person to express his thanks for the efforts that had been made in his behalf.

One of the men released January 8, William Mance, was originally sentenced to death, his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment after the N. A. A. C. P. appealed to President Wilson in 1918, and this sentence was commuted to 20 years, making him eligible for the parole which has now been granted. Of the 10 men originally sentenced to death, whose sentences were commuted to life imprisonment through N. A. A. C. P. action, 6 have now been paroled, as follows:

John Lanier, released Nov. 10, 1924  
Edward Porter, released Nov. 26, 1924  
John Gould, released Nov. 26, 1924  
John Geter, released Nov. 26, 1924  
Wm. Burnette, released Dec. 14, 1924  
Wm. Mance released Jan. 8, 1924.

Reporting the transfer of the remaining 29 Houston Martyrs from Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary, to the Military Prison, Warden Biddle wrote to the N. A. A. C. P. reporting that the conduct of these men had been good to the end of

## FREE ANOTHER OF 24TH INFANTRY

LEAVENWORTH, Kans., Nov. 12. Major Elgar King, Acting Parole Officer of Fort Leavenworth Disciplinary Barracks, announced the release of James Gaffney, former member of the 24th Infantry, on parole. Gaffney will leave immediately for his home in Charlotte, N. C. This reduces the number of Houston martyrs to twenty-two. Sixty-five were previously sentenced to long terms and life sentences for participation in the Houston riots.

## 2 MORE HOUSTON MARTYRS FREED; ONLY 23 OF ORIGINAL 55 STILL HELD

Report to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, reduces the number still held from the original 55 to 23. The latest releases bring the number of paroles, from the time the N. A. A. C. P. and co-operating agencies, presented a petition to President Coolidge up to 32.

The latest paroles are announced to the N. A. A. C. P. in a letter from Major King, Acting Parole Officer at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and the names of the men are: Wash Adams, released under the supervision of J. Thomas Hardy, Crawford, Miss.; and Henry L. Chenault, under the supervision of Myron T. Holcomb, San Francisco. These two men were released July 26. James Coker, another prisoner whose release was scheduled some time ago, leaves on August 9.

## MORE HOUSTON RIOTERS FREE

### Two Men Recently Released Brings Number To Thirty Since Huge Petition Was Presented To President Coolidge Last Year

NEW YORK, July 13.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced the receipt of communications from the Parole Officer of the U. S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, announcing the release of James Coker, former member of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, imprisoned for alleged participation in the Houston, Texas riots, was released on July 2, 1925, on home parole under the supervision of Mr. W. Hayes McKinney of Detroit, Michigan, former President of the Detroit Branch of the N. A. A. C. P., and now member of the Legal Committee of the Detroit Branch. 7-17-25

The N. A. A. C. P. was also advised that James Coker, another of the Houston prisoners, is eligible for release on home parole on August 9. The N. A. A. C. P. secured a first friend and advisor for Mr. Coker.

The release of Messrs. Cecil and Coker brings the total to 30 of the 54 since the petition signed by 125,000 signatures gathered by the N. A. A. C. P. and co-operating agencies was presented to President Coolidge in February, 1924.

## TWO MORE HOUSTON MARTYRS FREED

Report to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, that two more former 24th Infantry men have been paroled reduces the number still held from the original 55 to 23. The latest releases bring the number of paroles from the time the N. A. A. C. P. and co-operating agencies presented a petition to President Coolidge up to 32.

The latest paroles are announced to the N. A. A. C. P. in a letter from Major Edgar King, Acting Parole Officer at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., and the names of the men are: Wash Adams, released under the supervision of J. Thomas

Hardy, Crawford, Miss.; and Henry L. Chenault, under the supervision of Myron T. Holcomb, San Francisco. These two men were released July 26. James Coker, another whose release was scheduled some time ago, leaves on August 9.



Riots-1925

Houston

# ARMY MEN ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLES SOON

## Other War Convicts Given Freedom

Leavenworth, Kan. — Despite the fact that war criminals of every kind and class on the scale, from murderers down, have been pardoned, paroled or released, 29 of the 55 men sentenced to terms at the federal prison here still remain as the only group of war convicts. The men constitute a large part of the 86 prisoners of the 24th Infantry convicted of participation in the Houston, Texas, riots of 1917, and government officials have exercised unreasonable and stubborn delay in giving these men their freedom.

Thirteen of the 86 men against whom riot charges were placed were executed without recourse to justice and without a lawful reviewing of their cases. Six others were hanged after a military execution in 1918 by President Wilson, who was forced to act on the urge of thousands of citizens.

Little attention has been paid by federal officials during the eight years since the riot to the 200,000 signatures which have been filed on three petitions by the N. A. A. C. P. requesting pardon for these soldiers, who before the Houston outbreak maintained records the equal of those in any other part of the army. Only during the Coolidge administration has any definite step been taken by the war department, which step—the appointment of an investigating board to review the case of each prisoner here—was made after the country had resounded with appeals from hundreds of thousands of both races for the pardon of the soldiers.

Investigation by the board was followed by a recommendation to release on parole 18 of the men immediately, making 16 eligible to be paroled next year, 16 in 1927 and the remaining four in 1928, in view of the fact that all prisoners are eligible for parole at the expiration of one-third of their sentence. It is entirely probable that many of the men executed were guiltless of any crime and that many of those still held are innocent, but were condemned because of their race.

The following is a statistical outline released from N. A. A. C. P. headquarters in New York:

Executed, Dec. 11, 1917, 13; September, 1918, 6.

Remaining in prison in 1918, 67.

Paroled, 5—Tom Bass, March 1, 1923; Doyle Lindsay, March 16, 1923; Warsaw Lindsay, Dec. 4, 1922; Eddie Macwell, May 1, 1923; Samuel O. Riddle, March 16, 1923.

Sentence commuted, Thomas Jackson, July 13, 1920.

Transferred to insane asylum, J. H. Hudson, Jr., Oct. 4, 1919.

Died, Robert Brownfield, April 18, 1918; Harrison Capers, Aug. 12, 1919; James R. Johnson, Dec. 16, 1922; Quiller Walker, Nov. 17, 1918; Douglas Lumpkins.

Escaped, S. W. Phillips, May 23, 1923.

Remaining in prison in 1924, 54; returned to prison from asylum, one (J. H. Hudson, Jr.); in Leavenworth prison Feb. 7, 1923 (date of petition), 55.

Those in prison at time petition was presented to President Coolidge, Feb. 7, 1924:

Name	Orig. Sent.	Red. to	Yr.	Parole
Adams, E. E.	Life	22 yrs.	'24	6-6-25
Adams, J.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
Adams, W.	Life	21 yrs.	'24	
Anderson, G.	Life	19 yrs.	'24	12-3-24
Avery, F.	Life	20 yrs.	'24	1-8-25
Banks, C.	Death	30 yrs.	'24	
Baxter, R. W.	Life	20 yrs.	'22	9-17-24
Bolden, D. T.	Life	20 yrs.	'22	9-17-24
Brown, F.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
Brown, R.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
Butler, A. C.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
Burnett, W.	Death	19 yrs.	'24	
Burkett, W.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
Cecil, B.	Life	22 yrs.	'24	7-2-25
Chenault, H. L.	Death	20 yrs.	'24	
Coker, J.	Life	23 yrs.	'24	8-9-25
Davis, A.	Life	23 yrs.	'24	
Deyo, I. A.	Life	18 yrs.	'22	6-5-24
Dixon, G.	Life	20 yrs.	'22	9-17-24
Dugan, W. L.	Death	30 yrs.	'24	
Frazier, W.	Life	22 yrs.	'24	6-9-25
Gaffney, J.	Death	22 yrs.	'24	
Geter, J.	Death	18 yrs.	'24	11-26-24
Glenn, C.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
Gould, J. H.	Death	18 yrs.	'24	11-26-24
Green, H.	Life	21 yrs.	'24	1-15-25
Hatton, C. J.	Life	19 yrs.	'24	12-14-24
Hawkins, J. R.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
Hobbs, G.	Life	21 yrs.	'24	1-15-25
Holland, N.	Life	24 yrs.	'24	
Hough, W. J.	Life	21 yrs.	'24	1-15-25
Hunter, A. T.	Life	19 yrs.	'24	11-10-24
Hudson, J. Jr.	Life	20 yrs.	'24	11-13-24
Humphries, N.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
Johnson, W. T.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
Lanier, J.	Death	19 yrs.	'24	11-10-24
Lewis, R.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
McDaniel, B.	Life	19 yrs.	'24	8-16-24
Mance, W.	Death	20 yrs.	'24	1-8-25
Mitchell, J. H.	Life	18 yrs.	'24	11-26-24
New, D.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
Parham, G. H.	Life	21 yrs.	'24	1-15-25
Pinkett, L.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
Porter, E.	Death	18 yrs.	'24	11-26-24
Richardson, H.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
Rucker, L.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
Smith, R.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
Sullivan, J.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
Tillman, R.	Life	18 yrs.	'24	12-14-24
Turner, H. C.	Life	18 yrs.	'24	12-14-24
Tyler, R.	Life	20 yrs.	'24	9-17-24
Vetelcer, S. V.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
Williams, J.	Life	20 yrs.	'22	9-17-24
Wardlow, J.	Life	30 yrs.	'24	
Woodruff, J. E.	Life	19 yrs.	'24	11-10-24

Transferred from Leavenworth prison to U. S. disciplinary barracks Jan. 16, 1925: Ernest E. Adams, John Adams, Wash Adams, Charlie Banks, Fred Brown, Richard Brown, Allie C. Butler, Burkett, Walter, Ben Cecil, Henry L. Chenault, James Coker, Abner Davis, William L. Dugan, William Frazier, James Gaffney, Callie Glenn, James R. Hawkins, Normand Holland, N. Humphries, Jr., Walter T. Johnson, Richard Lewis, Dean New, Leroy Pinkett, Harry Richardson, Luther Rucker, Robert Smith, Jessie Sullivan, Sherman C. Vetelcer, Joseph Wardlow.

## 29TH HOUSTON MARTYR RELEASED

The 29th member of the 24th infantry to be released since the N. A. A. C. P. and co-operating bodies presented their petition to President Coolidge, left the United States Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on June 6, according to a letter written by Major Edgar King, acting parole officer, to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The latest man to be released is Earnest E. Adams, who will go on Home Parole, under the supervision of William B. Hamilton, of Elizabeth, N. J.

The N. A. A. C. P. also announces that it has found a "First Friend" for another of the prisoners to be released August 9 under Home Parole in Brooklyn, N. Y. R. E. Elzy, executive secretary of the Brooklyn Urban League, has consented to serve in that capacity for the prisoner, James Croker.



Riots - 1925.

Michigan

# TROUBLE IN MICHIGAN AGAIN

## Street Carnival Argument Brings Race Feeling To A Tense Climax

BATTLE CREEK, Mich., July 21. Following the continued hostilities between the races in Battle Creek, a conference of the county, city and military officials has been called for tonight for the purpose of organizing measures to protect law-abiding citizens and prevent further outbreaks.

Started at Carnival

A knife battle last night resulted in the wounding of three men. Five arrests were made after the affray. The colored section of the city is under heavy guard, an additional squad of 16 men having been assigned from Camp Custer to aid the deputies already on duty there. Brig. Gen. Benjamin A. Poore, commandant at the Camp has offered Mayor Green any additional assistance needed.

The trouble started at the carnival grounds with several fist fights between colored and whites. Hostilities spread from there to other parts of the city, where knife and gun battles, stone throwing and other serious disorders broke out.

It finally became necessary to call out the reserves to put down the uprisings, and as a last resort, military aid was sent for.

### Quiet in Detroit

In the meantime reports from Detroit indicate that the situation there is quite as a result of the determined stand taken by the colored citizens in protecting themselves and their property from violation by lawless mobbists. Those who have moved into the formerly white districts have answered the repeated threats and attempts at intimidating by arming themselves and finally holding their ground.

Detroit, Mich., July 17.—Following the forced retreat of Dr. Ransom, roomers at the Fletcher home, Alex L. Turner, 3410 W. Warren Ave., who was evicted from his newly purchased residence at 4755 Spokane Ave. by a mob of bloodthirsty whites, outbreaks were encouraged in other sections of the city.

Dr. Turner, it is alleged, admitted newspaper men and leaders of the mob into his home to explain that he held degrees from the University of Michigan and that his wife, Mrs. Leota Turner, was a graduate of the University of Leipzig, Germany.

He also explained that he had lived in a white neighborhood for 15 years and that 75 per cent of his clientele was white.

The mob responded to this costly information by forcing him to sign a hurriedly drawn up document by H. D. Ferris, attorney, and Murray Sutton, real estate agent, and bodily evicting him from the premises.

Dr. Turner's furniture was smashed and windows of his costly limousine were shattered during the milling. Police protection was inadequate to curb this violent demonstration, it seems.

Recent victims of mob fury were Vollington Bristol, undertaker, 701 Division St.; John W. Fletcher, formerly of 4585 Roosevelt Ave., and James Wimbley, 6208 Central Ave.

### Storm Bristol Home

Four years ago Vollington Bristol, undertaker, 701 Division St., purchased a vacant lot in a plot on American Ave. as an investment. When the territory began to boom Mr. Bristol started a two-family flat which was completed early in May of this year. However, the investment proved costly because each of his tenants in turn was intimidated by white neighbors and forced to move. Mr. Bristol decided to move into the house himself and rent out his home on Tennessee Ave.

The trouble began when a delegation of white residents called on Mr. Bristol and forbade him to move into the house at 7408 American Ave. Bristol informed the delegation that he would move into his home and live despite their protests. Earlier in the day a lone patrolman from Vinewood Ave. station was placed on guard at the house when it was rumored that trouble was brewing between the races.

### Sent Riot Call

During the evening a mob of 1,500 belligerents assembled in front of the Bristol home, noising their protest. He sent in a riot call which was answered by three policemen from his station, Lieut. John Trease and Patrolmen Sylvester Collins and Peter Nowicki.

The officers arrived to find the bloodthirsty belligerents stoning the Bristol home. At this outbreak our people began to collect on the edge of the West side district, determined to protect Bristol with their lives. Lieut. Trease sent in a riot call for every available officer from Grand River, Scotten and Petosky police stations.

As reinforcements from our people moved into the zone of operations intermittent firing began. The police reserves in an effort to check the advance threw a line between the two forces and opened fire. The forces took cover afforded by refuse piles between Central and Bryden Aves. and laid down a barrage of rifle, revolver and shotgun fire in the direction of the Bristol home.

### Enter War Zone

According to police testimony, a big touring car heavily loaded with armed Race men tried to rush the district held by the mob during the heavy firing. It escaped from the war zone, pursued by a police flyer from Vinewood station, after having crashed into a telephone pole, tearing a door from the hinges. Operations ceased along the entire front when Chief Inspector Harry B. Kinney and police headquarters arrived and took charge with all possible reinforcements from West side police stations. The mob was rapidly dispersed. It is alleged that Acting Superintendent of Police Jim Sprott ordered the search which resulted in the arrest of 24 persons and the confiscation of weapons and ammunition. No white homes were searched.

### Arrest Twenty-four

The men arrested gave their names as Tom Malcom, Ephraim Todd, Pierce Taylor, Luke Fennell, Ralph Hickman, Fred Hegler, George Wright, Robert Ashley, Robert Lyles, Oliver Simpkins, Mose Dennerd, Aaron Wright, Meredith Lowman, Edgar Settler, Harry Brandon, Jim Harper, William Speight, William Tigner, Julius Quartermain, Dr. M. Gregory, Charles C. Diggs, M. Johnson and N. T. Walton. The latter four named were not registered at police headquarters. However, they were held overnight. Out of a possible 500 shots fired by rioters and police, fortunately nobody was hit, according to official reports.

### White Boy Shot

John W. Fletcher, waiter to Police Commissioner Frank Croul, purchased a home at 9428 Stoepel Ave. and moved into it Thursday with his family and two roomers. After spending one peaceful night on the premises he was also a victim of mob violence at 10 o'clock the following evening. The Fletchers formerly resided at 4585 Roosevelt Ave. Other occupants of the house at the time of the outrage were Mrs. Fletcher and her sons, Bernard, 15, and Clayton, 13, and Harry Walker and Chas.

### Closes Traffic

It is estimated that 4,000 people congregated on Stoepel Ave. in the vicinity of the Fletcher home. For several blocks traffic was closed by the swaying mob whose hoots and jeers sounded like the howling of a wolf pack. The outlaws near the home began to hurl bricks and stones at the Fletcher residence.

The Fletchers were barricaded in their home. When it became evident that the police could not control the mob Fletcher fired into the crowd from an upstairs window, wounding a white boy, Leonard Paul, in the thigh. The house had been a target for bricks and other available missiles for half an hour before Fletcher retaliated.

### Rush to Scene

When it became known at police headquarters that a white boy had been shot all available officers were rushed to the scene, including the detective force.

The Fletchers, Walker and Ransom were all arrested and taken to police headquarters in connection with the shooting of the boy. Fletcher admitted that he did the shooting and was held on a charge of assault with intent to do great bodily harm, less than murder. He was released on making a statement to Assistant Prosecutor John B. Watts.

### Another Outrage

Late Saturday night James Wimbley, 6208 Central Ave., had the windows of his home smashed by a gang of rowdies. Mr. Wimbley had been living at the above address with his family since his purchase of the property one year ago. No trouble had been experienced until Saturday night, when the jeering mob of hoodlums smashed his windows and served notice on him to vacate the premises by Sunday night. Mr. Wimbley appealed to the police for protection, but they have proved unequal to the emergency.

### Legion Intervenes

Tom Phillips post No. 184, American Legion, department of Michigan, has sent a letter to Police Commissioner Frank Croul stating that as an organization of ex-service men dedicated to law and order, and seeing that the police department was inadequate to protect certain citizens, offers a force of 6,000 men to help maintain law and order. Mr. Croul stated that he would give the matter immediate attention.

Mayor John W. Smith has consented to an interracial commission suggested by Arthur W. Tibbs, commander of Tom Phillips post, to take care of the situation. Mr. Tibbs has submitted names of competent Race men.

## DETROIT'S RACE RIOT CONTINUOUS AFFAIR

Week of Clashes Between the Races Is Ending.

MORE TROUBLE

Thousands of Negroes and Whites

Clash Over Occupancy of Homes

in White District by Negroes.

Extra Police on Duty.

DETROIT, Mich., July 11.—For the past week Detroit has been experiencing its greatest race war. Shootings, arrests by the score, firing from barricaded houses, and riots bordering on mob violence, have been of daily occurrence. Every available officer has been stationed in the "black belt" and the negroes are in a state of fear.

The lawless element, those who have been instrumental in perpetuating the disturbances, have to a great extent been rounded up and jailed, but quiet is not yet restored.

Last Tuesday evening when the trouble started, rifle and revolver shots ricocheted and scattered as rapid volleys were fired in a clash between hundreds of whites and a group of negroes in the vicinity on American Avenue, a white residential section. A negro undertaker moved into a newly constructed house at that address Monday. He rebuffed a delegation that asked him to move.

A squad of police arrived as the firing started. They were greeted by a hostile demonstration. Somebody in the crowd shouted:

"Shoot the cops, too."

Hundreds of shots were fired, but no one was injured.

Reserves from police headquarters quickly dispersed the crowd and rounded up 19 negroes, who, they say, congregated in defense of the occupants of the home before which the demonstration was staged.

In the street, after the crowd had cleared away, the officers found 60 revolvers, rifles and shotguns that had been hurled aside by their fleeing owners.

Two caches of arms and ammunition were found in negro homes that were investigated by the officers after



quiet had been restored.

The following day, Wednesday, the lawless negro element renewed their assaults in the same vicinity. A crowd of negroes stoned Mr. and Mrs. John Wright, a white couple, as their car passed. They were sent to a hospital for treatment.

#### Crowd of 2,000.

At the home of the negro undertaker a crowd of at least 2,000 milled about the house and were only dispersed with the arrival of a squad of officers, who answered a riot call. A crowd of whites intent on the destruction of the house and injury to the owner, was dispersed before they crossed an adjoining field.

So certain were authorities that the defiance of the negro householder would result in further and more serious demonstration that the police armored car was hastily conditioned and held ready to participate in any duty which rests as much upon the untoward activities.

All day Wednesday special squads of policemen and detectives paraded the neighborhood in the vicinity of the negro's home, but all was quiet.

Friday evening negroes barricaded in a house in a white neighborhood on Stoeper Avenue opened fire promiscuously from upper story windows upon a crowd of several thousand white people. A white youth was shot twice in the thigh. The house had been a target for stones, bricks and missiles of every sort, except bullets, for half an hour before the negroes retreated.

Again a riot call was sounded and all available officers, including detectives, were rushed from police headquarters and other precincts. More than a score of other officers had been on duty on American Avenue, south of Tireman, the scene of the disorders for three successive nights, and the police department was taken by surprise by the new outbreak.

It was estimated that more than 1,000 persons congregated in the vicinity of the house. They thronged the street for several blocks, hooting and jeering, while those close to the house kept it under a steady barrage of rocks, bricks, and anything they could lay hands on.

A neighbor living next door to the negro residence had five tons of coal delivered in the afternoon. It was thrown away by the crowd.

#### Ku Klux Klan Meeting.

Just before midnight, scores of huge placards, announcing a mass meeting of members and friends of the Ku Klux Klan, were tacked on telegraph and telephone poles throughout the district. Large crowds gathered to read and discuss the proclaimed session, to which "every free-minded citizen of Detroit is invited."

"Important issues are to be decided," the placards state. Speakers, fireworks and refreshments are to be a part of the programme.

Detroit's negro population is a large one, and continually increasing. Negroes are attempting to rent homes in the exclusive white districts, a move the whites will not tolerate.

Sheriff Walters today issued a warning to both whites and blacks that disputes cannot be fought by street mobs and that he will give full power of his office to maintain law and order.

While Detroit police were anticipating Saturday night, further outbreaks near the homes occupied by negroes in white residential areas and had full complements of reserves in readiness to deal with any situation that might arise, Mayor John W. Smith issued a statement asking the public to see that the riots "do not grow into a condition which will be a lasting stain on the reputation of Detroit as a law-abiding community."

The storm centers are considered to be American and Tireman avenues, where Volition A. Bristol, negro undertaker, still occupies the home he recently purchased there in the teeth of demonstrations on three successive nights, and Prairie Avenue near Grand River Avenue, where another

negro occupies a house.

John W. Fletcher, two blocks from Livernois and Plymouth avenues, the negro who is charged with causing grievous bodily harm in connection with the shooting of a white youth, Leonard Paul, 15 years old, Friday night, delayed the situation in his district by moving out Saturday after less than 48 hours' tenancy. Six policemen were at hand as Fletcher moved his furniture over his back, straw lawn from the house in which not one window remained whole.

#### Mayor's Statement.

Mayor Smith's statement is as follows:

"The incidents of violence and attempted violence in connection with the disorders in Detroit constitute a stain on the people of Detroit which they cannot afford to ignore. They are to be deplored, and it is a duty which rests as much upon the citizenry as upon the public officials to see that they do not grow into a condition which will be a lasting stain upon the reputation of Detroit as a law-abiding community."

"The condition which faces Detroit is one which faces Washington, East St. Louis, Chicago and other large cities. The result in those cities was one which Detroit must avoid if possible. A single fatal riot would injure the city beyond remedy."

"The avoidance of further disorder belongs to the good sense of the leaders of thought in both white and colored races. The persons, either white or colored, who attempt to urge their fellows on to disorder and crime are guilty of the most serious offense upon the statute books. It is clear that a thoughtless individual of both races constitutes the nucleus in each disorder and it is equally clear that the inspiration for their acts comes from bad influences which are willing to go even to the limits of bloodshed to gain their ends. The police are expected to maintain order and execute any persons guilty in organizing such disorders for inciting a riot. The rest of the duty for preserving order lies with the individual citizens by refraining from adding to the crowds in districts where danger exists, from refraining from discussion which may have a tendency to incite disorder and finally to rebuke at once the individual agitators who are willing to risk human life, destroy property and ruin their city's reputation."

### Mayor and Army Officer Thanked For Averting Battle Creek Race Riot

Letters of thanks have been sent by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to Mayor Charles Green of Battle Creek Michigan, and Brigadier General Benjamin A. Poore, commanding officer of Camp Custer, for their prompt action in suppressing what threatened for a time to become a race riot between white soldiers and colored citizens of the city.

The Calhoun Branch of the N. A. A. C. P., through George W. Corrothers, its president; C. L. Evans, chairman of the executive committee, and Carrie E. Foster, secretary, makes the following report:

"The trouble started on Sunday, July 19, between 3 and 5 o'clock

in a house with a questionable reputation, among the lower element of our race, a white woman and a white soldier. The outcome of it was that the soldier was cut by a member of our race not seriously, however, but just enough to form an excuse for revenge, not upon the man who committed the deed, but upon the race. This soldier was stationed at Camp Custer, which is located in the immediate vicinity of Battle Creek. He returned to the camp and that night a large bunch of soldiers came into Battle Creek and were joined by Battle Creek civilians and started trouble which, however, was not of any great proportion.

"We wish to state here that as soon as the Mayor (Charles Green) of Battle Creek was informed of the existing circumstances, even though it was in the middle of the night, he immediately communicated with camp authorities (Brig. Gen. Benjamin A. Poore, commander-in-charge) and they in turn sent military police into the affected district and with the assistance of the police and detective forces of Battle Creek and the Sheriff's department of Calhoun County, order was restored for that night. The following evening, however, several of our people were accosted and beaten by men wearing soldier's uniforms, in the outlying district, just outside

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Riots-1925

Michigan.

## OTHER PAPERS SAY

### RACE RIOTS IN NORTHERN CITIES

[Chicago Daily News]

Detroit is soon to be the scene of a murder trial in which a highly educated Colored physician and his wife and eight other members of their Race are the defendants. They were all arrested because of the fatal shooting of a white neighbor while the physician's house was being stoned by a mob immediately after he had moved into a neighborhood which sought to keep out Colored residents. Detroit, it seems, has not gone to the extremity of exploding bombs—the vicious Chicago method of repelling “invasion” by Colored families of districts claimed by white residents as exclusively their own.

The latest bombing outrage of the kind in Chicago resulted in the virtual destruction of the Bethesda Baptist church at Michigan Ave. and 53d St. The agents of law and order are it not only to the members of the church and the Colored people generally but to all Chicago to use every possible effort to discover the perpetrators of that crime and bring them to justice.

The Colored populations of Chicago, Detroit and some other northern cities have increased in numbers very greatly since the beginning of the World war, principally through migrations from the Southern states. In the main the migrants were induced to come north by agents of northern industries that needed their services.

It was, of course, a great injustice that no provision was made for housing the newcomers in the northern cities. Very little systematic effort has been made in that direction since the northward movement began. When, in seeking roofs to cover their heads, Colored people “invade” white residence districts, they do so mainly as a matter of necessity.

Differences of opinion as to where American citizens may or may not live in their own native land will never be settled by the throwing of stones or the explosion of bombs. Rational and law-abiding people, regardless of color, realizing the shocking evils of race riots, ought to go to work systematically to disarm injustice and intolerance by wise and considerate action at all points of possible friction.



Riots - 1925

# ROOT NEGRO TENANTS IN KANSAS CITY

**Riot Calls Sounded As 300  
Whites March On E. 7th  
St. Apartments. Others  
Will Move In, Owner Says**

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 12.—Two riot calls were sent into the police Tuesday night, to quell the disturbance which followed an indignation meeting of hundreds of more whites held in the Woodland school yard, and their marching on the homes of Negro tenants who had moved into the Garland Apartments 1815 1/2 East Seventh street. Two colored families were forced to move out of the building into which they had moved a few hours before.

In response to the outlawry of the whites, James Jeffries, white owner of the apartment on Wednesday morning stated, "Ten more colored families will be ready to move in today."

## Arrest Four Whites

The riot calls were turned in when the three hundred neighbors congregated in front of the apartment, which adjoin the Woodland School on the northeast.

The police found the apartment house dark. The crowd was shouting threats. The police arrested two men said to have been leaders, and two boys who had been distributing threatening handbills.

The men, R. A. Clark, 2514 Peery avenue, and William Nail, 1843 East Seventh street, and the boys, M. L. Wilson, and James Wilson, 2003 East Seventh street, later were released on personal bonds.

## "Move at Once."

In giving an account of the affair, Miss A. J. Williams, manager of the Adell Apartments, next door west of the Garland Place Apartments, declared that while the crowd was congregating one of the women asked: "Can't we stay until tomorrow? We just moved in tonight."

The crowd answered: "No! No!" As soon as they had thinned out about 9:30 a truck backed up and two colored families left.

## Made Threats

The handbills which the boys had distributed to the apartments into

which the Negroes had moved read:

"Second Notice to Landlord, Agent and Occupants: Colored Tenants will not be tolerated in the Garland Place. —Property Owners."

According to Miss Williams, the first notice to Negro tenants was issued last Friday night to three Negro families which had just moved in with promises of free rent for a week. The next morning the three families moved.

The E. E. Pullman Realty Co., colored 1705 East Eighteenth street, had charge of the renting of the apartments.

## Voluntary Bans

Although colored people live all along East Seventh street up to the border of the 1800 block, it is believed that the voluntary segregation ban was placed on them by the whites because they were expanding too far east, and approaching the Independence avenue district where a number of wealthy whites have homes.

## Will Rent to Colored

In a reply to an inquiry as to what he intended to do, Jeffries stated that he was determined to rent the apartments to Negroes and that he would engage guards if necessary. This declaration was received with defiance by white neighbors in the district who promised not to cease their fight to keep Negroes away. Jeffries was promised police protection by Chief William Shreeve.

Jeffries said that he purchased the Garland apartments two months ago from T. G. Hill with the intention of renting it to colored and that he carried \$67,000 insurance on it.

The Garland apartment building was one of the achievements of the building boom of 1887. It was built of brick and stone at a cost of \$75,000. It was one of the show places of the city and an exclusive apartment house for years.

Missouri



Riots - 1925.

New York.

## BOYS' FIGHT STARTS RIOT.

Firemen Quell Newark Race Battle  
With Hose—15 Arrested.

*New York Times*  
A fight which started between two small boys when one of them tried to creep under a tent into a circus at South and Pacific Streets, Newark, on Thursday night developed into a race riot in which a score of white men and as many negroes participated. No one was seriously injured, although several of the participants received minor bruises.

*New York Times*  
When firemen at Vesey and McWhorter Streets brought high pressure hoses into play, after one negro had emptied a revolver at several white pursuers, the riot was finally quelled. Two revolvers, several knives, a razor, a dagger and a cartload of bricks were gathered by police after the fight. Thirteen negroes and two white men were arrested. William Martin and Gus Baynes, both negroes, were held on charges of carrying concealed weapons. The other prisoners were fined \$10 each and released. The police say they found a pistol in Martin's possession and a razor on Baynes's person.

The fight started when William Robertozzi, 13 years old, a white boy, tried to creep under the circus tent. A small negro, known as "Dynamite," and employed by the circus as a freak, tried to eject him. White men took William's part, whereupon negroes came to the aid of "Dynamite." In a few minutes the air was filled with missiles. The negroes were finally driven from the circus by a throng of whites.



Riots-1925

## GANG OF WHITE YOUTHS ATTACKS FOUR NEGROES

Each Assault Has Taken Place  
Near St. Matthews Church  
On Ashe Street.

### MUCH FEELING AROUSED

Within the past two weeks four negroes have been attacked in Greensboro by a gang of less than a dozen white men. The police report that they have been notified of some trouble but have captured none of the gang, which operates without masks and in shirt sleeves.

Detailed accounts of the affairs were given to the Daily News yesterday by the victims of the attacks and by other negroes who live in the southern part of the city. Much feeling has been aroused among negroes.

The negroes injured were Maurice Warren, a waiter at the Hylmore tea room, Fred Holt, Neil Reid, who lives at 805 Davis street and is an employe of the Southern Railway company, and a negro whose identity could not be learned but was attacked Tuesday night and then disappeared.

Thus far all of the attacks have been made near the St. Matthew's negro church on South Ashe street near Five Points. The members of the gang are described as being young fellows led by a tall slightly stooped man, who wears palm beach trousers and goes bare-headed.

Neil Reid has been the worst beaten of the group. He tells the story as follows:

"I was going along Ashe street about Bain's lumber yard to catch the work train out to Pomona at 10:30 p. m. As I got nearly to the lumber yard I saw two white fellows standing on the side of the street. They were lighting cigarettes and just as I reached them, one of them took out a black jack and hit me over the head and said, 'You damn nigger.' I started to fight back but about eight got around me and I couldn't do anything except take the beating which they gave me over the head. They got in a car and left and told me to go home."

The first reported beating happened July 18 when Maurice Warren and Fred Holt both received blows. Maurice says he was going home from his work and reached Five Points about 9:30 o'clock. He says that a tall young white man, with hair combed back, small forehead, palm beach trousers, short sleeved shirt, and bareheaded, came out of an alley and struck him across the mouth loosening two teeth. The as-

sailant then reached down and picked up the negroe's hat, which had fallen off, give it to him and told him never to be out that late again at night. The man was then said to have gotten into a Ford coupe with two other youths and rode off.

Maurice says that he has seen his assailant three times since. On last Thursday night the negro was accompanied home by two others and just about the time that Five Points was reached, the white boy who had attacked him came by in an automobile and was heard to remark, "That's the negro I hit." "I saw him one day last week pass the door of the Hylmore tea room going down Elm street and I saw him last night near St. Matthew's church just after another negro had been beaten," said Maurice.

Police were called Tuesday night and two men were held for a few minutes but the negroes failed to identify them as belonging to the gang.

Fred Holt was attacked the same night that Maurice was struck. The former escaped without receiving a full blow but says that it was also the tall, stooped man who hit at him. He was said to be in company with a gang of about eight persons.

What motive the gang has in trying to persecute the negroes is not understood. But one thing is certain. There is a hotbed of wrath in the negro section and there has been some suggestion that there might be some preparations made for the next visit of the gang.

North Carolina.



Riots - 1925.

Oklahoma.

## Report Two Dead In Race Riot

Okemah, Okla.—(P.N.S.)—Two men were reported killed and several injured in a race riot between Negroes and whites at Clearview, seven miles southeast of here, late Wednesday. Reports to the sheriff's office and manager. Deputy sheriffs were rushed to the town.

## REPORT TWO DEAD IN RACE RIOT

(Preston News Service)

OKEMAH, OKLA., July 17.—Two men were reported killed and several injured in a race riot between Negroes and whites at Clearview, seven miles southeast of here, late Wednesday. Reports to the sheriff's office and manager. Deputy sheriffs were rushed to the town.

Riots-1925

Pennoy Ivania

## WHITES AND BLACKS CLASH IN PITTSBURG

Pittsburg, July 22.—(P)—Five riot calls were received by police early tonight to quell what was said to be a riot between whites and negroes in an outlying section of the city. Fifteen police sent out on the first call were reinforced by a score of others and detectives. The fight started, it is said, when a white man and a negro became involved in an argument over a game of ball being played by boys. A crowd gathered and fighting resulted. First reports were that probably 200 men and boys were engaged in the fight, during which brick sandstones were hurled and several shots fired.



Riots - 1925.

Texas.

# **KILLING OF THREE MEN BY NEGROES MAY CAUSE RIOTS**

Orange, Texas, February 14.—Race rioting was feared tonight as inflamed citizens gathered in groups in the streets and discussed the killing of three white men by negroes here today.

Innumerable small groups assembled and officials feared a concerted assault on the jail where the blacks are held. Open threats of lynching were made.

Word that 700 oil field workers, incensed at the slaying, were coming into Orange tonight, increased the apprehension.



# Negro Comeback in Tulsa Seen As Tribute To Race

## District Wiped Out by Race Riot in 1921 Now Filled With Modern Brick Homes

By Lester A. Walton  
In N. Y. World

TULSA, Okla., Sept. 10.—“Five Years Later” might be an appropriate title to a highly interesting narrative on the remarkable comeback of the Negroes in Tulsa. After the race riot in June, 1921, they were left homeless, without food or clothing. The majority were penniless.

Out of the stark and unsightly ruins of yesterday where once lay the bodies of innocent men, women and children, the Negro section of the town has risen Phoenix-like. This is no hyperbole. It is doubtful if there has been a more striking example of grit, self-determination and optimism, in similar circumstances. When subjected to the acid test these colored Americans were not found wanting.

In his welcome address to delegates to the National Negro Business League, Mayor H. F. Newblock, declared: “I will say that you could not make me believe in a thousand years but what the colored people of Tulsa are the most progressive people on earth.” These were, not honeyed words for out-of-town consumption. They were spoken in all sincerity.

Not a home remained standing in thirty-five city blocks after lawless whites had destroyed the Negro district by fire, and nearly 1,000 homes were burned to the ground. Many of the business buildings and dwellings were old frame structures. Modern brick structures have sprung up in their place. There are one-fourth more houses in the section than before the riot. The property value has increased from \$2,000,000 to \$3,250,000. As Mayor Newblock proudly told visitors “The people had nothing left but their vacant lots and today the improvements on them are 100 per cent better than before the fire.”

Visitors who have not been in Tulsa

building restrictions. It would have been impossible to have rebuilt new houses in accordance with specifications. Nothing could have been put up for less than \$5,000. The erection of business buildings would have been out of the question.

With the aid of white friends legal proceedings were instituted in the courts of Tulsa for the abrogation of the order. Usually one judge renders a decision, but in this particular instance three sat at the hearing, and handed down an opinion which was unanimously in favor of Negro property owners.

The action of the three judges really marked the beginning of the building campaign on the big scale. It still is going on. The first home is said to have been rebuilt by a white man for an old and highly respected employe.

for six years assert it is difficult to associate the business and residential sections now occupied by Negroes with what they knew them to be. The metamorphosis excites their admiration and moves them to expressions of wonderment. North Detroit Street is the show of the place for family residences.

The embers had not cooled, the wave of racial antagonism had not subsided, when the victims set to work clearing away the debris where once stood their homes. They went about their tasks using borrowed picks and shovels, not knowing whence the first brick or piece of timber was coming. They were imbued with abiding faith and hope.

Every Negro gave the other a helping hand. Negro bricklayers, carpenters and plasterers labored day and night. They performed their work at a nominal cost. This exhibition of cooperation became contagious. The better element of white people in Tulsa began to lend moral and financial aid by standing sponsor with local banks and trust companies for the rebuilding of homes. From the ashes better and more modern homes began to emerge. The physical rehabilitation of Tulsa's Negro district was assured.

Immediately following the riot the homeless Negroes of Tulsa thwarted a plot to deliberately deprive them of their land. Their section is in the northeastern portion of town, divided from the white business section by railroad tracks. Prior to June 21, 1921 covetous eyes had been cast in the direction of Greenwood and Archer Streets. Business had to expand. The erection of a large union station was and is under contemplation. Warehouses and other commercial activities needed additional space. The desirability of the property owned by Negroes was an open secret.

It therefore was no big surprise to fire victims when offers were made to send them out of town, as far as California, if desired, with transportation paid. But there is not an instance on record where a property owner accepted such a proposition, preferring to remain in Tulsa and work out his destiny.

The next discouragement faced in the move to deprive Negroes of their land was when the district was put in the fire zone, which imposed exacting